

1 THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 BLACK LIVES MATTER SEATTLE-
11 KING COUNTY, ABIE EKENEZAR,
12 SHARON SAKAMOTO, MURACO
13 KYASHNA-TOCHA, ALEXANDER
14 WOLDEAB, NATHALIE GRAHAM,
15 AND ALEXANDRA CHEN,

16 Plaintiffs,

17 v.

18 CITY OF SEATTLE,

19 Defendant.

20 No. 2:20-cv-00887-RAJ

21 DECLARATION OF SHARON A.
22 SAKAMOTO IN SUPPORT OF MOTION
23 FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
24 ORDER

25 I, Sharon A. Sakamoto, declare and state as follows:

26 1. I have been a Seattle, Washington resident for over 70 years and I did not
participate in any protests in Seattle between May 30, 2020, and June 6, 2020, because I was
afraid of the police's use of force at protests. The information contained in this declaration is
true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I am of majority age and competent to testify
about the matters set forth herein.

2. I was born in Camp Minidoka in Idaho on September 20, 1943, to incarcerated
Japanese American parents, both US citizens. Growing up in post-war America as a Japanese
American child born in one of the camps has greatly shaped my world view and perspective. I

27 DECLARATION OF S. SAKAMOTO IN
28 SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
29 RESTRAINING ORDER (No.) -1

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31 **Perkins Coie LLP**
32 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900
33 Seattle, WA 98101-3099
34 Phone: 206.359.8000
35 Fax: 206.359.9000

1 have always been keenly aware of the flagrant discrimination and disparate treatment faced by
 2 communities of color across the US and particularly in Seattle. This led me to dedicate my
 3 career to help my Japanese American community and communities of color. I am now a retired
 4 attorney. While practicing, I provided community and legal services primarily to the
 5 underserved Japanese American community.

6 3. When my fellow Americans rose up in response to the death of George Floyd and
 7 the numerous other black Americans killed by the police, I believed and hoped our country had
 8 finally reached a historical turning point. I felt the energy and American spirit in the movement
 9 and messages of the people. I passionately desired to participate in the protests taking place in
 10 Seattle. I knew the risks associated with protesting amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. But I still
 11 wanted to protest. I would have worn a mask and stayed away from others at a six-foot distance.

12 4. However, I did not participate in any protests between May 30 and June 6 in
 13 Seattle because I was too afraid and intimidated by the violent police response. I saw coverage
 14 of the protests in the media and was frightened by the force that the police were using against
 15 protesters.

16 5. I feel passionately about the years of blatant injustices suffered by black
 17 Americans and other people of color at the hands of police. I wanted to make my voice heard,
 18 especially in light of my family's incarceration during WWII. I am extremely proud of all the
 19 young people who have showed up to peacefully protest as part of this movement. I wish I felt
 20 safe enough to join them.

21 6. If the police stopped using blast balls, and indiscriminately using tear gas and
 22 pepper spray (and other chemical irritants), I would gladly and proudly join the protests and
 23 exercise my First Amendment right to assemble. I would want to add my voice to the call, the
 24 demand, that my government must change especially because current policing is done in a
 25 manner that devalues Black lives.

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 DECLARATION OF S. SAKAMOTO IN
 SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
 RESTRAINING ORDER (No.) -2

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Perkins Coie LLP
 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900
 Seattle, WA 98101-3099
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 Fax: 206.359.9000

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4 Executed this 8th day of June 2020 at Seattle, Washington.

5 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of
6 Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

7 By: 
8 SHARON A. SAKAMOTO

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DECLARATION OF S. SAKAMOTO IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER (No.) -3

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Perkins Coie LLP
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900
Seattle, WA 98101-3099
Phone: 206.359.8000
Fax: 206.359.9000